

Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000, to monitor the Nation's progress toward the elimination of health care disparities; and

(6) the information gained from research about factors associated with health care utilization and access, patient attitudes toward health services, and risk and protective behaviors that affect health and illness, should be disseminated to all health care professionals so that they may better communicate with all patients, regardless of race or ethnicity, without bias or prejudice.

Agreed to October 3, 2002.

S.S. HENRY BACON'S OFFICERS AND CREW— RECOGNITION

Oct. 11, 2002
[H. Con. Res. 411]

Whereas during World War II the United States Liberty ship S.S. HENRY BACON was assigned the task of conveying war materials and supplies to the beleaguered Russian nation via the dangerous Arctic Ocean passage (referred to as the Murmansk Run) from Iceland or Scotland to Murmansk in northern Russia, and faithfully fulfilled her mission;

Whereas in early 1945 the British navy, having rescued a number of Norwegian civilians from occupied Norway and transported them to Murmansk, distributed them among the HENRY BACON and certain other merchant ships for transportation to England, with 19 of such refugees being assigned to the HENRY BACON;

Whereas a convoy carrying those refugees, designated as Convoy RA 64 and consisting of 35 ships and naval escorts, departed Murmansk on February 17, 1945, amid one of the worst storms ever registered in the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas the HENRY BACON, with a full crew and refugees on board, sailing as part of that convoy, suffered damage from the force of the storms and from internal mechanical problems;

Whereas the HENRY BACON, while suffering from a loss of steering capacity, lost her place in the convoy and became a stray, unable to communicate with the convoy and required to maintain radio silence;

Whereas the HENRY BACON was left to her own devices and was in such dire straits that engine room workers used a sledgehammer and wedge to physically turn the ship;

Whereas on February 23, 1945, the HENRY BACON, alone in the freezing sea some 50 miles from the convoy, came under attack by 23 Junker JU-88 torpedo bombers of the German Luftwaffe;

Whereas armed with only the small but formidable anti-aircraft battery with which such merchantmen were equipped, the United States Navy Armed Guard on board the ship and the ship's merchant sailors fought gallantly against the oncoming torpedo bombers;

Whereas although mortally wounded after a German pilot succeeded in scoring a hit with a torpedo to the ship, the HENRY BACON

fought back, shooting down a confirmed three enemy planes and crippling at least two more;

Whereas when the HENRY BACON began to sink, her captain ensured that all 19 Norwegian refugees on board received a place in one of the undamaged lifeboats;

Whereas when the lifeboat supply was exhausted, crewmen made rough rafts from the railroad ties that had been used to secure locomotives delivered to Russia;

Whereas the HENRY BACON went down with 28 members of her crew, including Captain Alfred Carini, Chief Engineer Donald Haviland, Bosun Holcomb Lammon Jr., and the commanding officer of the United States Navy Armed Guard unit aboard, Lieutenant (junior grade) John Sippola, but in its sinking kept the German planes from looking further and locating the main body of the convoy;

Whereas the 19 Norwegian refugees, as well as the other survivors, were rescued by British destroyers and those refugees were ultimately returned to Norway; and

Whereas the actions of the officers and crew of the HENRY BACON were in the finest tradition of the United States Merchant Marine and the United States Navy and have been recognized by the people of Norway and Russia but, until now, have not been acknowledged by their own Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes the valiant deeds of the officers and crew of the S.S. HENRY BACON, a World War II United States Liberty ship that was sunk by German aircraft on February 23, 1945.

Oct. 17, 2002

[H. Con. Res. 406]

LAO VETERANS OF AMERICA—HONORING AND COMMENDING

Whereas one of the largest clandestine operations in United States military history was conducted in Laos during the Vietnam War;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency and the United States Armed Forces recruited, organized, trained, and assisted Laotian and Hmong guerrilla units and conventional forces, including ethnic lowland Lao and highland Laotians composed of Hmong, Khmu, Mien, Yao, Lahu, and other diverse tribal and nontribal ethnic groups, from 1960 through 1975 to combat the North Vietnamese Army and Communist Pathet Lao forces;

Whereas Laotian and Hmong special forces who served in the United States sponsored "Secret Army" courageously saved numerous American pilots and aircrews who were shot down over Laos or North Vietnam and interdicted and helped to destroy many enemy units and convoys intended to engage United States military forces in combat;

Whereas Laotian and Hmong special forces served in key roles with air force elements of the United States Air Force, United States Navy carrier-based air units, United States Army heliborne units, and the Central Intelligence Agency's "Air America" in distinguished roles such as T-28 fighter pilots, "Raven" spotter